V. (340 points) Wildlife and Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Proponent should provide a statement of the relative importance of the project's wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits. DWR will use the statement and all other project materials to assign a fraction of the total benefits to each type (wildlife (F_w) or agricultural land conservation (F_a)) so that the fractions total unity. Actual points scored for each type of resource will be multiplied by the respective fraction for each resource, and the wildlife and agricultural scores resulting for each type of resource will be added together.

The Project, as described elsewhere in the Application, is primarily based on property acquisition. The acquired properties would remain undeveloped in the case of currently unimproved property, and improvements would be removed in the case of currently improved property. The Project has been formulated to create wildlife/habitat benefits. While there may be some incidental benefits to downstream agriculture, for purposes of this Application, the wildlife benefits have been detailed. Accordingly, part B of this Section has been considered to be "not applicable".

A. (340xF_w points) Wildlife Benefits

Habitat values refer to the ecological value and significance of the habitat features at this location that presently occur, have occurred historically, or will occur after restoration.

Viability refers to the site's ability, after restoration if necessary, to remain ecologically viable with minimal on-site management over the long-term, and to be able to recover from any natural catastrophic disturbances (fire, floods, etc.).

A1. Importance of the site to regional ecology (70)

1. Describe any habitat linkages, ecotones, corridors, or other buffer zones within or adjacent to the site. How are these affected by the project?

In 1980, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified Kelso Creek as one of California's top habitat protection opportunities (Audubon 2002). This section of Kelso Creek is part of the most heavily used avian Spring migration corridor in the Sierra Nevada. It helps link the South Fork of the Kern River, a Globally

important Bird Area with Butterbredt Canyon, a Nationally Important Bird Area (Audubon 2002). The removal of the present development and preservation of relatively undisturbed portions of the Project area would reduce the threat of wildlife predation by dogs and other domestic animals that presently run free in the area . The proposed buy-out would also allow for the removal of noxious non-native trees like Salt Cedar presently growing in the development that could threaten down stream riparian areas along the Kern River in the future.

2. Is the site adjacent to any existing conservation areas?

The Project area is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management's Kiavah Wilderness Area and is approximately 2.5 miles south of Audubon's Kern River Preserve.

3. Describe any plans for aquatic restoration resulting in in-stream benefits.

Most of the land targeted for acquisition lies in the secondary floodplain of Kelso Creek, a large portion of the plain is undeveloped Kern Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia* var. *Herbertii*) Woodland that would require little or no restoration. The primary channel is also relatively undisturbed rabbitbrush scrub that is typical in desert washes. Most of the habitat restoration would be in the developed area of the Project site and would consist of the following procedures:

- Removal of non-native noxious and ornamental tree and shrub species,
- eliminate or decrease ground water pumping in the area to improve the relatively shallow water table to a depth that will support riparian forest.
- planting of native cottonwood trees, adding to the existing cottonwoods to eventually form a small forest;

- maintain existing Kern Joshua tree woodland and reintroduce this habitat type to upland portions of the floodplain.

4. Discuss any natural landscapes within the site that support representative examples of important, landscape-scale ecological functions (flooding, fire, sand transport, sediment trapping, etc.)?

The rabbit brush scrub in the primary channel and the Joshua tree woodland the floodplain should effectively slow flood waters and decrease erosion and down stream sedimentation.

A2. Diversity of species and habitat types (70)

1. Does the site possess any:
   i. areas of unique ecological and/or biological diversity?

Kelso Creek is a major flight corridor for migrating Turkey Vultures and many other migrating and resident sensitive bird species including burrowing owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*). The yellowed ear pocket mouse (*Perognathus parvus xanthonotus*) is a mammal unique to this very small area of northeastern Kern County.

   ii. vegetative complexity either horizontally or vertically?

The undeveloped portions of the Project site are complex only with respect to species diversity. The Kern variety of Joshua tree does not grow much higher than the surrounding shrubs making the landscape vegetation fairly level. If a cottonwood forest could be established in the area, the vertical complexity would be increased.

2. Describe habitat components including year-round availability of water, adequate nesting/denning areas, food sources, etc.

The potential development of the cottonwood forest would provide nest sites for a variety of hawks and owls, Joshua trees provide nest sites for at least 25 bird species, and the understory of the rabbitbrush scrub and Joshua tree woodland provide potential burrow sites for a wide variety sensitive birds, mammals, and reptiles.

3. Describe any superior representative examples of specific species or habitats.

The Kern Joshua tree woodland and the yellowed-eared pocket mouse are superior examples of unique species and habitats that are found in very limited areas in this very unique area of California.

Does the site contain a high number of species and habitat types? List and describe.

Habitat Types

The Site presently has two habitat types rabbitbrush scrub and Kern Joshua tree woodland. Riparian woodland is also a possible habitat type for the area if restoration efforts are implemented. As we stated earlier the rabbitbrush scrub habitat is in the primary channel of Kelso Creek and the Joshua tree woodland exists in the upland areas and floodplain of the Project site. The potential site of the riparian forest habitat type would be in the developed area of the Project site where the Short Canyon drainage converges with Kelso Creek.

Species

Table V-1, located at the end of part A, contains a list of animals that could occur in the Project's habitat types.

4. Does the site contain populations of native species that exhibit important subspecies or genetic varieties historically present prior to European immigration?

The Kern Joshua tree is a unique variety of Joshua tree that is shorter and not as branched as the more common variety that grows on the Mojave Desert. All of the shrub species occurring in the undeveloped portions of the Project site are native and pre-European immigration.

A3. Ecological importance of species and habitat types (100)

1. Discuss the significance of habitat types at this location and include any local, regional, or statewide benefits received by preserving or improving the area.

In 1980, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified Kelso Creek as one of California's top habitat protection opportunities (Audubon 2002).

2. Does the site contain any significant wintering, breeding, or nesting areas? Does it fall within any established migratory corridors? What is the level of significance? How are these affected by the project?

This section of Kelso Creek is part of the most heavily used avian Spring migration corridor in the Sierra Nevada. It helps link the South Fork of the Kern River, a Globally important Bird Area, with Butterbredt Canyon, a Nationally Important Bird Area (Audubon 2002).

3. Describe any existing habitats that support any sensitive, rare, "keystone" or declining species with known highly restricted distributions in the region or state. Does the site contain any designated critical habitat? How are these affected by the project?

There are no habitats designated as critical in the Project area, however, there are a number of species that are considered sensitive and rare that potentially occur in the habitats of the Project area, they include:

SPECIES	STATUS
Yellow-eared pocket mouse	BLM Sensitive
Burrowing owl	CDFG Species of Concern
California horned lizard	CDFG & Fed. Species of Concern
Prairie falcon	CDFG Species of Concern
Charlotte's phacelia	Fed. Species of Concern, CNPS !B
Kelso Creek monkey flower	Fed. Species of Concern, CNPS !B

All of these species would potentially benefit from the preservation and restoration efforts proposed by this Project.

4. What is the amount of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) and riparian habitat to be developed, restored, or preserved?

It is possible that a small (possibly 10-20 acres) cottonwood forest could be established on the parcel if restoration efforts are implemented. A portion of the funds awarded by this grant would set aside to restore the developed portion of the Project area.

A4. Public benefits accrued from expected habitat improvements (60)

1. Describe present public use/access, if any. For instance, does or will the public have access for the purpose of wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, picnics, etc.

It is the proponents intention to turn over ownership and management of the property to an entity that specializes in managing natural preserves, public access for wildlife viewing and photography would be part of the management plan for the property.

2. Discuss areas on the site that are critical for successfully implementing landscape or regional conservation plans. How will the project help to successfully implement the plans?

The entire Kelso Creek drainage was classified as one of California's top habitat protection opportunities in a 1980 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inventory, *California's Important Fish and Wildlife Habitat.* The National Audubon Society-California is actively seeking to purchase a property upstream from the Project area. The Project area would be a link between Audubon's Kern River Preserve and this new property.

3. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other anthropogenic features. Do any surrounding areas detract from habitat values on the site?

Properties upstream and west of the Project area are generally undeveloped ranch land, land use immediately downstream from the site is irrigated agricultural land and lands to the east are

BLM designated Wilderness area. None of the adjacent land uses would detract from habitat values of the site.

4. Describe compatibility with adjacent land uses.

The planned restoration and preservation of the lands contained in the Project area are completely compatible with the land uses described above. The agricultural land north of the site will be an excellent buffer between the urban development of Weldon, CA. Removal of the flood protection levee and restoration of the natural flow of Kelso Creek through this area would be benefit the downstream agricultural lands by reducing flow velocity and the threat of erosion and sedimentation.

A5. Viability/sustainability of habitat improvements (40)

1. Describe any future operation, maintenance and monitoring activities planned for the site. How would these activities affect habitat values?

Ownership and management of the property will be turned over to an entity that specializes in managing and restoring natural preserves. Habitat values under expert stewardship will almost certainly increase. The removal of the present development and preservation of relatively undisturbed portions of the Project area would reduce the threat of wildlife predation by dogs and other domestic animals that presently run free in the area. The proposed buy-out would also allow for the removal of noxious non-native trees like Tamarisk, presently growing in the development, that could threaten down stream riparian areas along the Kern River in the future.

2. Does the site contain large areas of native vegetation or is it adjacent to large protected natural areas or other natural landscapes (for example, a large stand of blue-oak woodland adjacent to public land)?

Approximately 50% of the Project area is native vegetation consisting of rabbitbrush scrub and Kern Joshua tree woodland and it is adjacent to a designated wilderness area.

3. Is the watershed upstream of the site relatively undisturbed or undeveloped and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future? Describe its condition.

The upstream watershed is non-urbanized ranch land and will likely remain so in the foreseeable future.

4. Describe any populations of native species or stands of native habitats that show representative environmental settings, such as soil, elevations, geographic extremes, or climatic conditions (for example, the wettest or most northerly location of a species within the state.)

The Population of Kern Joshua trees that grow in the area are on the northern end of a long narrow belt of the variety that starts in northern Los Angeles County.

TABLE V – 1

Species	Season of Use	WHR Habitat Type
REPTILES		
SOUTHWESTERN TOAD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
RED-SPOTTED TOAD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
CALIFORNIA TREEFROG	Yearlong	Desert Wash
BANDED GECKO	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN FENCE LIZARD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
SIDE-BLOTCHED LIZARD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CALIFORNIA HORNED LIZARD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
DESERT NIGHT LIZARD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GILBERT'S SKINK	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN WHIPTAIL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CALIFORNIA LEGLESS LIZARD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
ROSY BOA	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
RINGNECK SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert scrub
SPOTTED LEAF-NOSED SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
COACHWHIP	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN PATCH-NOSED SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GLOSSY SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GOPHER SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
COMMON KINGSNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub

LONG-NOSED SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
SOUTHWESTERN BLACK-HEADED SNAKE	Yearlong	Joshua tree, Desert scrub
LYRE SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
NIGHT SNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN RATTLESNAKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BIRDS		
TURKEY VULTURE	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
OSPREY	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
NORTHERN HARRIER	Spring-Fall	Desert scrub
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
COOPER'S HAWK	Yearlong	Joshua tree
RED-TAILED HAWK	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GOLDEN EAGLE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
AMERICAN KESTREL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MERLIN	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
PRAIRIE FALCON	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MOUNTAIN QUAIL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MOURNING DOVE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GREATER ROADRUNNER	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
COMMON BARN OWL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN SCREECH OWL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GREAT HORNED OWL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BURROWING OWL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub

LONG-EARED OWL	Yearlong	Desert scrub
SHORT-EARED OWL	Spring-Fall	Joshua tree
LESSER NIGHTHAWK	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
COMMON POORWILL	Yearlong	Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD	Spring-Summer	Desert Wash
COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD	Winter-Spring	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD	Fall-Winter	Joshua tree
RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER	Winter	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
NORTHERN FLICKER	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN FLYCATCHER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER	Spring-Summer	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD	Spring-Summer	Joshua tree
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW	Spring-Fall	Joshua tree, Desert scrub
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
CLIFF SWALLOW	Spring-Fall	Desert scrub
COMMON RAVEN	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
VERDIN	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
ROCK WREN	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BEWICK'S WREN	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BIRDS (cont.)	Season of Use	**WHR Habitat Type**
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash

SWAINSON'S THRUSH	Spring	Desert Wash
HERMIT THRUSH	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
AMERICAN ROBIN	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
SAGE THRASHER	Fall-Spring	Desert scrub
LE CONTE'S THRASHER	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
PHAINOPEPLA	Yearlong	Desert Wash
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BIRDS (cont.)	**Season of Use**	**WHR Habitat Type**
EUROPEAN STARLING	Yearlong	Joshua tree
WARBLING VIREO	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
NASHVILLE WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
YELLOW WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
WILSON'S WARBLER	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
LAZULI BUNTING	Spring-Fall	Joshua tree
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
BREWER'S SPARROW	Spring-Fall	Desert scrub
SAGE SPARROW	Spring-Fall	Desert scrub
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash
SCOTT'S ORIOLE	Yearlong	Joshua tree, Desert scrub
HOUSE FINCH	Yearlong	Desert Wash
MAMMALS		
DESERT SHREW	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Desert scrub

LITTLE BROWN MYOTIS	Spring-Summer	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
YUMA MYOTIS	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
LONG-EARED MYOTIS	Spring-Fall	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
FRINGED MYOTIS	Spring-Summer	Desert Wash, Joshua tree
LONG-LEGGED MYOTIS	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CALIFORNIA MYOTIS	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS	Spring-Fall	Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN PIPISTRELLE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MAMMALS (cont.)	Season of Use	**WHR Habitat Type**
BIG BROWN BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
HOARY BAT	Spring-Fall	Joshua tree
SPOTTED BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
PALLID BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BRAZILIAN FREE-TAILED BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN MASTIFF BAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
DESERT COTTONTAIL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BLACK-TAILED HARE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MERRIAM'S CHIPMUNK	Yearlong	Joshua tree
CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRREL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
YELLOW-EARED POCKET MOUSE	Yearlong	Joshua tree
PANAMINT KANGAROO RAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub

MERRIAM'S KANGAROO RAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
WESTERN HARVEST MOUSE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
DEER MOUSE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
CANYON MOUSE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BRUSH MOUSE	Yearlong	Joshua tree
PINYON MOUSE	Yearlong	Desert Wash
SOUTHERN GRASSHOPPER MOUSE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Desert scrub
DESERT WOODRAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
COYOTE	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
GRAY FOX	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
RINGTAIL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
LONG-TAILED WEASEL	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BADGER	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MOUNTAIN LION	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
BOBCAT	Yearlong	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub
MULE DEER	Fall-Spring	Desert Wash, Joshua tree, Desert scrub

B. (340xF_a points) Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

This part is "not applicable" (reference statement at the beginning of Section V, pV-1).

B1. Potential productivity of the site as farmland (120)

1. Describe the quality of the agricultural land based on land capability, farmland mapping and monitoring program definitions, productivity indices, and other soil, climate and vegetative factors.

2. Are projected agricultural practices compatible with water availability?

3. Does the site come with riparian, mineral, and/or development rights?

4. Is the site large enough to sustain future commercial agricultural production?

5. Does the site contain any adverse or beneficial deed restrictions affecting agricultural land conservation?

6. Describe the present type of agricultural use including the level of production in relation to the site's productivity potential. What is the condition of the existing infrastructure that supports agriculture uses?

B2. Farming practices and commercial viability (40)

1. Does the area possess necessary market infrastructure and agricultural support services?

2. Are surrounding parcels compatible with commercial agricultural production?

3. Is there local government economic support in place for agricultural enterprises including water policies, public education, marketing support, and consumer and recreational incentives?

4. Describe any present or planned future environmentally friendly farm practices (no till, erosion control, wetlands avoidance, eco-friendly chemicals, recycling wastes, water conservation, biological pest control).

B3. Need and urgency for farmland preservation measures (70)

1. Is the project site under a Williamson Act contract?

2. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, low density ranchette communities, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other human-induced features. Do any surrounding areas detract from agricultural values on the site?

3. What types of conversion or development are likely on neighboring parcels? What are the land uses of nearby parcels? Describe the effects, if any, of this project to neighboring farming operations or other neighboring land uses.

4. Describe the relationship between the project site and any applicable sphere of influence.

5. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation.

B4. Compatibility of project with local government planning (50)

1. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation?

2. What is the present zoning and is the parcel developable?

3. Is there an effective right to farm ordinance in place?

4. Is the project description consistent with the policies of the Local Agency Formation Commission?

5. Will the project as proposed impact the present tax base?

B5. Quality of agricultural conservation measures in the project (50)

1. For agriculture lands proposed for conservation, describe any additional site features to be conserved that meet multiple natural resource conservation objectives, including wetland protection, wildlife habitat conservation, and scenic open space preservation where the conservation of each additional site feature does not restrict potential farming activities on the agriculture portions of the site.

2. What are the present biological/ecological values to wildlife? How are these values affected by the proposed project?

3. Is the project proponent working with any local agricultural conservancies or trusts?

4. Does conservation of this site support long-term private stewardship of agricultural land? How does this proposal demonstrate an innovative approach to agricultural land conservation?

5. Without conservation, is the land proposed for protection likely to be converted to non-agricultural use in the foreseeable future?

Pictures looking southerly at open rangeland
from corner Cottontail Lane and existing levee

Looking southerly at channel (upstream) from top of existing Levee at Cottontail

Looking at channel from top of levee at Cottontail